

mysticism need not be so conceived that some ontological teleology is essential to their viewpoints. It is sufficient if a deeply cultivated sense of the mystery of existence provides a corrective to any dogma of the total intelligibility of the universe, an intelligibility to be finally revealed by science or any other means.

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Federal Budget and Fiscal Policy, 1789–

1958. Lewis H. Kimmel. Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., 1959. x + 387 pp. \$5.

This highly readable volume has a somewhat misleading title. Kimmel has not written a comprehensive history of federal budgeting and fiscal policy but has concentrated on the evolution of attitudes toward the balanced budget and public debt. The volume starts with Washington and Hamilton and ends with Eisenhower and Anderson. Economic events, the viewpoints of government officials, and the contemporary prescriptions and theories of economists are interrelated in each phase of fiscal history. The author has a light touch throughout and does not attempt a technical treatment. The book is apparently addressed to the general reader and to the practitioner. Although there is reference to such matters of fiscal economics as the balanced budget multiplier, the author does not attempt to break new theoretical ground.

The great change that has occurred in this 170-year period lies in the role and responsibility of the national government for the aggregate level of income and employment. This change has necessitated an abandonment of rigid notions of budget-balancing and at least some diminution in fears about the horrors of the national debt. Kimmel's history of the emergence of what is commonly called "a positive fiscal policy" or "fiscal policy for growth and stability" points out that attitudes toward balanced budgets and the national debt had become stereotyped by the end of the 1920's. Adherence to fiscal orthodoxy was a traditional article of faith, and the march of events had not forced a rethinking of the issues. The attack on the conservative creed first came in the writings of economists, in the immediate pre-Keynesian period, from 1930 to 1936. The transformation in popular

attitudes toward the national debt and deficits did not emerge until World War II, when it became completely evident that very large deficits and a rapid rise in the national debt were accompanied, not by bankruptcy and ruin, but by unprecedented increases in national output and an unprecedented rise in levels of material well-being.

Kimmel finds that, in the postwar period, the obsessive belief in the efficacy of a balanced budget has all but vanished, and that there are no important differences between the major political parties on this point. The philosophy of the Employment Act prevails, and budget policy will be adapted to the requirements of economic stabilization.

It is not possible to dissent from this conclusion. Certainly there is a predominant view that, in the event of a serious recession, federal taxes will be reduced and expenditures will be increased, let the deficits fall where they may. But there remains a curious lag in thinking in some quarters. Kimmel quotes a 1957 statement by Senator Goldwater, which appeared in the *Congressional Record*: "Where is the finely drawn line between freedom and slavery when, under the present deficit, every baby born in this country has a \$1,675 first mortgage tag hanging around its neck?" Perhaps it is the senator who should read this book.

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Index Kewensis Plantarum Phanerogamarum. Supplement 12. George Taylor, Ed. Oxford University Press, New York, 1959. 162 pp. \$12.

The appearance of a new supplement to the *Kew Index* has been eagerly anticipated by taxonomists who work with the flowering plants, for this continuing publication, perhaps more than any other single work, makes possible the orderly progress of plant taxonomy. The 12th supplement of the work (first published in 1895) covers the years 1951 to 1955 inclusive. An estimate indicates that between 17,000 and 18,000 binomials are included in this supplement; most of these are names of new species or new combinations published during the 5-year period, but some are names published earlier and overlooked in prior supplements. Like the other re-

cent supplements, the 12th carries a separate listing of newly described (or previously overlooked) genera. There are 472 names in this list.

This is the first supplement that has appeared under the nominal editorship of George Taylor, the new director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. In his foreword Taylor gives credit to M. I. Skan for the preparation of the supplement. Botanists in all fields owe a debt of gratitude to both Skan and Taylor, and to the Royal Botanic Gardens, for the preparation and sponsorship of this indispensable work. In its format and in the excellence of its printing, the 12th supplement is a worthy addition to a distinguished series of botanical reference works.

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The Gifted Group at Mid-Life. Thirty-five years' follow-up of the superior child. vol. 5 of *Genetic Studies of Genius*. Lewis M. Terman and Melita H. Oden. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif., 1959. xiii + 187 pp. \$4.50.

If we were to identify a large group of 11-year-olds with IQ's that place them within the highest 1 percent of the school population and follow their careers for 35 years, what would we find? Few biographers have the pertinacity to wait for an answer. It is our good fortune that Terman has undertaken such a study—and of no less than 1500 individuals. Unfortunately Terman's death occurred before he could witness the ground swell of interest in exceptional talent which followed the scientific events of 1957.

The book is concerned primarily with the status of the gifted subjects in 1955, when their average age was 44. Careful comparisons have been made of the incidence of death, suicide, mental illness, sexual maladjustment, schooling, occupational rank, income, and fecundity in the gifted group and in the general population. The authors have been remarkably successful in bringing together statistics that are scattered over many fields. The analysis shows that the gifted subjects continue to be superior in nearly every respect. We learn that the present birth rate of 2.4 children per mother among the gifted women and the wives of gifted men is insufficient to "maintain the

stock," although the authors point out that a number of child-bearing years remain. Of particular interest is the finding that the mean intelligence level as measured by the Concept Mastery Test significantly increased between the ages of 30 and 40.

For the reader who wishes to obtain a brief review of Terman's 35 years of research on gifted subjects, this will be a useful book. Readers of earlier volumes will find that it covers familiar ground. It provides a concise summary of an investigation which sought to tell us (i) what intellectually superior children are like as children; (ii) how well they turn out; and (iii) what some of the factors are that influence their later achievement. The last aim was only partially realized. The authors themselves conclude that the research has not yielded much information on methods and techniques for the education of the gifted. However, by showing the records of accomplishment of gifted children who go through our schools without any special educational opportunities, the authors have provided a valuable base line against which the effects of future innovations may be assessed.

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Mass Leisure. Eric Larrabee and Rolf Meyersohn, Eds. Free Press, Glencoe, Ill., 1958. x + 429 pp. \$6.

This collection of readings roams widely over a rather loosely defined subject, but the serious reader should, in general, find it an informative and provocative set of skilled attempts to dissect and explain "the leisure that has become available, on an increasing scale, to the populations of the industrial West."

In confining their attention to the industrial Western nations, the authors point out a rather basic distinction between "class leisure" and "mass leisure," the former involving the use of free time which was secured as a right or prerogative of classes whose orientation was towards leisure, the latter involving the use of free time earned and paid for by people whose orientation is towards work. It is "the working class" that is now joining the ranks of the "leisure class" as a result of greatly reduced hours of work and a considerably increased span of life. But this new-found leisure has

come faster than have the changes in our attitudes towards work and in our philosophies of life; thus, it has brought anxieties and "problems" along with the potential advantages of a freer and better life. The book is, in general, an explication of these social trends.

The volume begins rather pedantically by quoting the two pages on "leisure" found in the *Oxford-English Dictionary*, followed by the five pages on the same subject contained in the *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. This may, unfortunately, prove too much for the general reader—a pity, because the readings become more interesting, meaty, and thought-provoking as the distance from this logical but unimaginative beginning increases. The succeeding sections, for example, contain a number of theoretical discussions of a philosophic, psychological, and sociological nature, such as Bertrand Russell's "In praise of idleness," Jean Piaget's "The explanation of play," Robert MacIver's "The great loneliness," and Margaret Mead's "The pattern of leisure in America." There is not much connection between these sections, but the reader will come away with a sense of expanded horizon and a greater depth of perception regarding the subject.

The third section of the book is devoted to empirical studies—statistics on the amounts and uses of leisure and field studies on leisure behavior. Lundberg's classic study of Westchester County, N.Y., is included, along with the *Fortune* report on "30 Billion for fun," and Cleveland Amory's description of American upper-class white society at Tuxedo Park appears alongside Franklin Frazier's account of the "black bourgeoisie."

Finally, in section four, the authors include a series of articles on specific forms of mass leisure, under the subheadings "Sports," "Hobbies," "Holiday travel," and "Fads and habits." Here will be found studies on "camping in the wilderness," the "do-it-yourself market," the "motivational pattern of drinking," and "sex as play."

The volume ends with some words about the future of leisure in our society and with a bibliography which "attempts to include all works on leisure written in the English language since 1900." The list is arranged by decade and includes only 22 items from the period 1900 to 1909 but over 400 items for the 8 years from 1950 to 1958—an indication of the growing importance of the subject to us today.

Although this is a professional rather

than a popular book—in the sense, at least, that it is confined for the most part to serious items from the research and the theoretical literature—it is also a book about each of us who is struggling to adjust his way of life to make more profitable use of his leisure time, or at least to understand why he can't do so. Thus, I believe that any serious reader will come away from reading this volume with greater perspective on himself and on the people around him.

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Excavations at La Venta Tabasco, 1955.

Philip Drucker, Robert F. Heizer, and Robert J. Squier. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1959 (order from Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington 25). viii + 312 pp. Illus. + plates. \$4.

As the title implies, this monograph reports on extensive excavations made at the Olmec site of La Venta, Mexico, during approximately three months of 1955 by a National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution-University of California archeological expedition.

The purpose of these excavations was to obtain definitive information on patterns of construction or architecture—a problem concerning which previous excavations of the site had produced only inconclusive results. Most of the work was concentrated in the Ceremonial Court area (complex A), which lies just north of the pyramid. Four construction phases were recognized: phase 1, the water-sorted floors period; phase 2, the white-floor period; phase 3, the rose-floor period; and phase 4, the red-clay-cap period.

The authors are of the opinion that "La Venta represents a culturally 'floating' manifestation of classic (or florescent) Olmec culture which at the present time is not firmly anchored to other sites or culture periods either at its beginning or end" (page 259). Radiocarbon dates are interpreted as indicating that complex A was constructed and used continuously during, approximately, the period 800 to 400 B.C.

Two points of wider significance are discussed under the heading "Possible sociopolitical situation at La Venta." La Venta may have been selected as the district ceremonial center because of its relative isolation. Whereas the religious